

An ADE Newsletter for Test Coordinators

November 2014



The Examiner

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Irene Hunting, Deputy Associate Superintendent

October 23, 2014

Dear Achievement Test Coordinators,

We are publishing the November edition of *The Examiner* early due to developments in the adoption of the new statewide achievement assessment.

Based on the agendas posted for the regularly scheduled State Board meeting on October 27 and special meeting scheduled for November 3, the State Board is expected to take action to adopt or reject the recommended assessment award on November 3. We understand this additional delay in adoption is distressing for you, as it is to us as we get ready to implement the new assessment. ADE has shared with the Board our expected timeline for the implementation of the new assessment and the challenges that come with an adoption so late in the school year. ADE's procurement office has proceeded through the procurement process as quickly as possible given the Board's timelines, the complexities of this procurement, and the integrity that the process requires. The Board was notified on October 15 of the selection recommendation. Once the assessment is adopted, ADE's first task will be to establish final timelines with the vendor and then to communicate that to all of you.

I want to reassure you that the entire ADE Assessment team and the entire ADE agency are ready to support all schools in preparing for a successful test administration once the new assessment is adopted. We will communicate information to you via multiple pathways - email updates, documents posted to the ADE website, and webinars. ADE has already set aside the funds necessary to provide in-person regional pre-test trainings to be offered in a December/January time frame.

Even without knowing what the new assessment will be, there are things we can tell you about the assessment, and things that you can do to prepare for it. On the following pages, you will find articles about Special Education students and testing accommodations, the Arizona Computer-Based Testing Readiness Report, and End-of-Course testing. Also included in this edition of *The Examiner* is timely information related to AIMS, Alternate Assessment, AZELLA, NAEP, and TIMSS testing.

Thank you for your understanding as we progress through the implementation of the new assessment. If at any time you feel that the ADE Assessment Section is not being responsive to your needs, please contact me directly with your concerns.

Sincerely,

Irene Hunting
Deputy Associate Superintendent, Assessment Section

Irene.Hunting@azed.gov

602.542.5450

Students with Disabilities and Testing Accommodations

In an effort to reduce anxiety and be proactive, the Assessment and Exceptional Student Services Sections want to provide some information regarding students with disabilities who will be participating in the new statewide achievement assessment. Please share this information with your district administrators, principals, department heads, special education teachers, school psychologists, and case managers.

As a reminder, all students are required to participate in state assessments. **It is not a requirement that IEP teams convene specifically to identify the name of the new state achievement test in a student's IEP.** Exception: If a student qualifies for the Alternate Assessment and is participating in the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) or AIMS A Alternate Assessment, the IEP team must be convened to address eligibility for the tests, including why the particular alternate assessment the student will be participating in is appropriate for the student, and why the student cannot participate in the regular assessment. [IDEA 2004 300.320(a)(6)]

Per IDEA 2004 (300.320(6)(i)) and the Elementary and Second Education Act 612 (a)(16), if a student has specific accommodations, these must be identified for use in the state achievement assessment. Accommodations should only be identified if they are used routinely during instruction. The identification of accommodations should not be limited to, nor based on, what is allowed on the state achievement test. Accommodations should be determined based on individual student need rather than what is allowable on an assessment.

Concern has been expressed that since the allowable accommodations are not yet known for the new state assessment, if a student needs specific accommodations, these should have already been identified in the student's IEP. Please note that what is most important regarding accommodations is to identify what type of accommodations your student needs. Once the accommodations for the new assessment are known, ADE will make that information available as soon as possible.

The following online resources are free tools that will help you determine appropriate instructional accommodations for your students.

AIM Navigator is a tool to help IEP teams make decisions about need, selection, acquisition, and use of accessible instructional materials: <http://aim.cast.org/navigator/page/>.

AIM Explorer is a free simulation that combines grade-leveled digital text with access features common to most text readers and other supported reading software, including: custom text, background colors, text to speech, text highlighting, and layout options that allow students to decide which of these supports might help them to access and understand text: <http://aim.cast.org/navigator/page/>.

Computer-Based Testing Readiness Report

ADE has developed the Arizona Computer-Based Testing Readiness Report. Achievement Test Coordinators, or their designee, have been asked to complete the upload of their schools' inventory spreadsheet, or complete the direct data entry of the same information, by October 31, 2014 as part of this report. To assist with this task, a recorded webinar, *Computer-Based Test Readiness*, is available on our New Statewide Achievement Test website at www.azed.gov/newtest.

Shortly after the new test is adopted, this report will provide each school with a readiness status – green, yellow, or red. Schools in green or yellow status will have the option to administer the computer-based version of the new assessment or the paper-based version in spring 2015. Schools in red status will give the paper-based version. All schools are required to complete and submit their technology inventory report. This includes those schools planning to administer the paper-based test for spring 2015. ADE needs this technology readiness information for all Arizona schools so that we can appropriately plan for the conversion to all computer-based testing in the future.

While the testing experience will be different, computer-based and paper-based test scores will be psychometrically comparable. Each mode will provide an accurate measure of the student's proficiency.

Please direct any questions regarding the inventory or Readiness Report to testing@azed.gov.

High School End-of-Course Testing

One of the changes the new achievement test will bring to high school is end-of-course testing. Unlike AIMS (which was a single test given during a student's tenth grade year), the new assessment will feature multiple tests tied to specific required high school courses in English language arts (ELA) and math. These tests are designed to provide information about a student's mastery of the standards in those specific courses. In ELA, the tested courses are English 9, 10, and 11. In mathematics, the tested courses are Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. All students enrolled in these courses, or their equivalents, are required to test.

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE) recognizes that there are a variety of approaches schools take to best meet the needs of their students. This often can include enrolling students in courses that are not the traditional courses named above. In these cases, schools should decide which courses align best to the end of course assessments. This can be achieved by thinking about two questions. Which ELA and math courses are students typically enrolled in during their first three years to meet credit requirements? Which courses are aligned to the same standards as the end-of-course tests?

When the new statewide achievement test is selected, the test map for these six End-of-Course tests will be made available as soon as possible. This will allow LEAs and schools to finalize decisions about which of their courses align with which End-of-Course tests. ADE plans to use the enrollments in Student-Teacher-Course Connection to create the file needed for paper-based pre-ID labels and for computer-based pre-registrations. The details regarding this will be determined later.

Regarding end-of-course testing, ADE is often asked about students in middle school who are taking high school courses, such as an eighth grader taking algebra. Any student who is being awarded high school credit for a course would be required to take the appropriate end-of-course test. This would also apply to other atypical situations. A basic guideline would be that students should take the end-of-course test while enrolled in the corresponding course, regardless of grade.

A second common concern is when schools with non-traditional schedules should test students (block scheduling, compacted courses, etc.). ADE plans to offer the tests three times throughout the year - spring, summer, and fall. This will allow students to test while enrolled in (or shortly after completing) the course. The first offering of the end of course tests will be in spring 2015.

Checklist for AIMS Testing through February 2015

AIMS HS October Test Administration

- ☐ **October 28** – AIMS HS Writing Test
- ☐ **October 29** – AIMS HS Reading Test
- ☐ **October 30** – AIMS HS Mathematics Test
- ☐ **October 30 - November 5** – UPS must be contacted to schedule return of materials.
- ☐ **October 31 - November 6** – UPS must pick up test materials.
- ☐ **December 15** – Reports will be available on *PearsonAccess*.
- ☐ **January 5** – Reports will be in district, **this is a date change.**
- ☐ **February 6** – Last day to download reports from *PearsonAccess*.
- ☐ **February 6** – Last day to report corrections to Pearson.

Spring 2015 AIMS Testing

AIMS HS February Test Administration

- ☐ **January 5 - 16** – Participation counts must be entered in *PearsonAccess*.
- ☐ **February 10 - 12** – Materials will be delivered to districts.
- ☐ **February 23** – AIMS HS Writing Test
- ☐ **February 24** – AIMS HS Reading Test
- ☐ **February 25** – AIMS HS Mathematics Test
- ☐ **February 25 - March 3** – UPS must be contacted to schedule return of materials.
- ☐ **February 26 - March 4** – UPS must pick up test materials.

AIMS Science Test Administration

- ☐ **January 5 - 16** – Participation counts must be entered or verified in *PearsonAccess*.
- ☐ **January 5 - 30** – AIMS HS Science Pre-ID Label selection open
- ☐ **February 2 - 20** – Online AIMS Science Pre-Test Training

AIMS HS October Test Administration

Testing Window

Students graduating on or before December 31, 2016 are permitted to participate in AIMS HS testing. All AIMS HS tests must be administered only on the scheduled dates.

AIMS HS Writing – Tuesday, October 28, 2014

AIMS HS Reading – Wednesday, October 29, 2014

AIMS HS Mathematics – Thursday, October 30, 2014

There is no make-up testing for the AIMS HS October test administration.

Return of Materials to Pearson

Procedures for returning materials to Pearson have changed from previous test administrations. It is the responsibility of each district/charter to contact UPS to make arrangements for materials to be picked up. UPS must have 24-hour notice to pick up materials. Please contact UPS and have materials picked up as early as possible.

October 30 - November 5 – Test Coordinator **must contact** UPS to schedule pick up of materials.

October 31 - November 6 – UPS **must pick up** materials between these dates.

Please be certain to have UPS pick up all AIMS HS materials no later than November 6. Any materials shipped after November 6 must be shipped overnight at the expense of the District/Charter. Materials not delivered to Pearson by November 12 will be put into late receipts. Districts in late receipts will also be charged for late processing and reports will be delayed.

Score Reports

December 15, 2014 – Reports and data files will be posted to *PearsonAccess*. For instructions on downloading the reports and data file from *PearsonAccess*. See the *AIMS User's Guide Part 3 – Test Results* posted on *PearsonAccess*.

January 5, 2015 – Change of date for paper reports are due to the districts. Most Arizona schools will be on Winter Break, so the delivery of materials has been changed to after Winter Break.

February 6, 2015 – This is the closing date for corrections and removal of reports and data files from *PearsonAccess*.

Spring 2015 AIMS Testing

Participation Counts Window

This school year, there will be one participation counts window: January 5 - 16, 2015. This is different from previous years. District Test Coordinators must enter both AIMS HS and AIMS Science participation counts during this one participation counts window. **The following steps must be completed in *PearsonAccess* by 5:00 PM, MST, Friday, January 16, 2015.**

- Verify Contact Information & Shipping Address in *PearsonAccess*. Spring 2015 AIMS HS and AIMS Science test materials will be shipped to this address.
 - ◊ **The contact and shipping address cannot be changed after January 16, 2015.**
- Verify and update participation counts for each school within the district/charter.
 - ◊ If a school **is not** listed that **will** be testing, contact Mary Pat Wood.
 - ◊ If school **is** listed that **will not** be testing, contact Mary Pat Wood.
- Mark status as “Complete” for each school.
 - ◊ **All schools within the district/charter must be marked as “Complete.”**

The *AIMS User's Guide Part 1 – Participation Counts* has step-by-step instructions for completing these three steps. The *User's Guide* will be posted on *PearsonAccess* by January 5, 2015. Download the User's Guide and follow the step-by-step instructions.

Determining Participation Counts

Participation counts should reflect the exact number of materials needed at the time the order is placed. There is no need to round-up the counts, since an overage will be included with the shipment of test materials. Do not wait until the last day of the window to start the participation counts in case there are computer issues. Achievement Testing District Test Coordinators must review the preliminary participation counts for each of their schools and revise, as needed.

AIMS HS – February Administration

Preliminary participation counts for each content area are based on the number of students who tested during the AIMS HS October Test Administration and did not pass.

- ⤴ The participation count for each content area is the number of students who must test on that content area **plus** the number of students who are retesting to “Exceed.”

AIMS Science

For Grades 4 and 8 – Preliminary participation counts are based on SAIS enrollments.

- ⤴ The participation count is the same as enrollment.

For High School – Preliminary participation counts **are** based on the number of Cohort 2017 students (typically sophomores) who do not have a valid AIMS Science score from Spring 2014.

- ⤴ The participation count is the number of Cohort 2017 students who must test on science **plus** the number of Cohort 2018 students (typically freshmen) who are opting to take the test early.

Student Pre-ID Labels**AIMS HS – February Administration**

No Pre-ID Labels will be provided.

AIMS Science – Grade 4 and Grade 8

Pre-ID Labels will be provided to schools based on SAIS enrollment as of January 30.

AIMS HS Science Pre-ID Label Selection

The ADE Common Logon Label Selection application is used to select students for HS Science Pre-ID Labels. Cohort 2018 students (generally freshmen) will not automatically receive a label for AIMS HS Science. Use the label selection application to identify Cohort 2018 students who are opting to take the Spring 2015 AIMS HS Science test.

January 5 - January 30, 2015 – AIMS HS Science selection application window

January 30, 2015 – Extraction dates for Pre-ID Labels from SAIS

AIMS HS Science Pre-ID Labels will be provided for students in Cohort 2017 who did not test on AIMS HS Science last year and all students in Cohort 2018 who were selected using the AIMS Pre-ID Label Selection application.

Delivery Windows

February 10 - 12 – AIMS HS – February Administration

March 2 - 5 – AIMS Science

There is only **one** delivery window for each test administration. If your school will not be in session during the delivery window, contact UPS with tracking information to request a delay of delivery.

Additional Order Windows

There is no Additional Order Window for AIMS HS February Administration.

The Additional Order Window for AIMS Science is March 6 - April 10, 2015.

Online AIMS Science Pre-Test Training

Achievement Testing District Test Coordinators who participated in the Fall 2014 AIMS HS and AIMS Science Pre-Test Training are not required to complete the spring training.

AIMS Science Pre-Test Training (February 2 - February 20, 2015)

The online training is divided into 3 separate sessions. Each session will take approximately 30 - 35 minutes to complete. Please start the training as early as possible. Session 1 must be completed by February 5, and all three sessions must be completed by February 20.

Achievement Testing District Test Coordinators, who are required to participate in this training, will receive an email prior to this training with their username, password, and instructions for completing the training.

Testing Windows

AIMS HS – February Administration

AIMS HS Writing – **Monday, February 23, 2015**

AIMS HS Reading – **Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

AIMS HS Mathematics – **Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

There is no make-up testing for the AIMS HS February test administration.

AIMS Science Test Window

Students in Grades 4, 8, and high school participate in AIMS Science testing during the testing window of **March 16 - April 24, 2015.**

Districts and schools have flexibility in scheduling AIMS Science testing within this window. For this school year, there is no requirement that all schools within a district administer AIMS Science on the same day, and there is no requirement that all students within a school administer AIMS Science on the same day. However, students must complete the AIMS Science test on the same day that they begin the test. Regardless of how AIMS Science testing is scheduled, schools must strictly adhere to test security requirements.

Alternate Assessments

November 2014

National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) Operational Assessment, Spring 2015:

The NCSC Alternate Assessment will be Arizona's Alternate Assessment for ELA and Mathematics for Spring 2015. The specific testing window dates will be finalized soon. All students eligible to take the Alternate Assessment will participate in the ELA (reading and writing) and the Mathematics Assessments for Grades 3-8 and 11.

NCSC Accommodations:

NCSC has distinguished between assessment features and accommodations. Assessment features are available to all students, while accommodations are selected based on an individual's need. Each requires routine use by the student during instruction. Selected assessment features and any accommodations must also be documented in the student's IEP.

Assessment Features

Answer Masking
Audio Player
Alternate Color Themes
Increase Size of Text and Graphics
Increase Volume
Line Reader Tool
Read Aloud and Reread Item Directions, Response Options, Passage

Accommodations

Assistive Technology (AT): Students may use assistive technology devices for viewing, responding, or interacting with the test items. The students and TA should use the AT device with the sample items to ensure that it functions properly with the NCSC Assessment System. The NCSC Assessment System supports various AT devices such as alternate keyboard, switches and hub, head mouse, etc.
Paper version: NCSC Alternate Assessment System allows for an increase size of text and graphics; therefore, no large print forms are available. All paper copies must be given to the TC as specified by the state for secure shredding once students' responses have been entered.
Scribe and Transcription: These can be used for selected-response and constructed-response items on the writing test. The scribe accommodation must be included in the students' IEPs.
Sign Language: ASL, PSE, SEE

New NCSC Resources:

Communicating with Parents about NCSC for Administrators and Educators

This document can be located at <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/alternate-assessment-test-coordinators/> under the IEP Teams tab.

AIMS A Science:

AIMS A Science should only be administered to eligible students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 (or second year of high school).

AIMS A Science Timelines

TASK	TIME FRAME
Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator Online Training for AIMS A Science	November 12 – November 28, 2014
Submit <i>No Response Form</i> and <i>Username and Password Request Form</i>	December 2014
Enter Students and Complete Student Verification	January 5 – January 31, 2015
Administer AIMS A Science Test	February 15 – March 31, 2015
Submit Final Data Closeout	April 1 – April 15, 2015
1% Cap Appeals	June 2015
Receive Student Reports	June 2015

NCSC and AIMS A Science

For the 2014 – 2015 school year, IEP teams must discuss and determine eligibility and accommodations for both the AIMS A Science Test and the NCSC Alternate Assessment. This should include which Alternate Assessment the student will be participating in based on grade level. The *Alternate Assessment Combined Eligibility Form* is located at: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/ncsc/> under the Eligibility Tab.

ALL Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators must read, sign, and submit the *Alternate Assessment Test Security Agreement Form*. The Alternate Assessment Test Coordinators must also collect all Test Administrators' signed *Test Security Agreement Forms* and maintain them on file for 6 years. One test security agreement will cover both Alternate Assessments for the 2014 – 2015 school year.

Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator (TC) Training

AIMS A Science		NCSC - ELA and Mathematics	
Grades 4, 8, and 10	Training Dates	Grades 3-8 and 11	Training Dates
The TC will complete the mandatory online training. The Alternate Assessment Unit at ADE will register all TCs for this required training.	November 12 – 28, 2014 (all TCs)	The TC and TC will complete the role-specific NCSC Online Test Administration Training modules.	Specific dates to be determined
Important The TC must train the Test Administrator (TA) on the testing procedures for staff (including administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals) administering AIMS A Science.	December 2014; before the opening of the testing window. (Training to be completed by the District Alternate Assessment Test Coordinator).	Important The TC must ensure the Test Administrators (TAs) have completed the NCSC final quiz with 80% or higher in order to have access to the NCSC Assessments for administration.	Specific dates to be determined

Updates concerning specific dates will be provided as they become available.

AIMS A Science Manuals Correction:

Page 4 of the *2015 AIMS A Science Test Coordinator* and page 4 of the *2015 AIMS A Science Test Administration Directions* have an incorrect testing grade chart. It should reflect Grade 11 for Mathematics and ELA. We apologize for this error and any confusion this may have caused. The corrected chart is below.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11
Mathematics	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
ELA	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Science		X				X		X	

Reminder: All important dates are posted on the **Assessment Calendar**. This calendar tab is located on the ADE Assessment main webpage.

SPRING 2015 AZELLA REASSESSMENT**Important Dates for AZELLA Reassessment**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Task</u>
Nov. 5-21	AZELLA District Test Coordinator Reassessment Training
Nov. 13	Reassessment Pre-ID Labels - data extracted from SAIS
Dec. 1-17	Verify Reassessment Participation Counts
Jan. 26-29	Reassessment Test Materials Delivery
Jan. 30 – Mar. 13	Additional Order Window for Reassessment
Feb. 9 – Mar. 27	Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment Test Window
Mar. 23 – Apr. 3	UPS Pick Up of Reassessment Materials

AZELLA District Test Coordinator Reassessment Training

Training for the upcoming Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment will be available beginning Wednesday, November 5 and must be completed by Friday, November 21. AZELLA District Test Coordinators will receive an email by November 5 with logon information for this mandatory training. District Test Coordinators who do not complete the training by November 21 will be locked out of *PearsonAccess* until the training is completed.

Only the designated AZELLA District Test Coordinator will have access to this training. It is the District Test Coordinator's responsibility to provide appropriate training to school test coordinators and test administrators.

Reassessment Pre-ID Labels

Pre-ID Labels will be provided for all students expected to participate in the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment based on data in SAIS at the close of business on Thursday, November 13. All ELL enrollments and withdrawals should be submitted to SAIS in time to have passed integrity by November 13.

While ADE makes every effort to provide schools with the appropriate Pre-ID Labels, the list of students receiving Pre-ID Labels will not always match the list of students required to participate in the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment. If no Pre-ID Label is provided for a student who should participate in the reassessment, the student's demographic data must be hand-bubbled on the reassessment test materials. If a Pre-ID Label is provided for a student who should not participate in the reassessment or who is no longer enrolled, the unused Pre-ID Label should be returned with the non-scorable materials.

Verify Reassessment Participation Counts

AZELLA District Test Coordinators will verify and submit participation counts for the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment using *PearsonAccess* during the window of December 1 – 17. Test materials will be provided based on these participation counts plus an overage. Directions for verifying and submitting participation counts are included in the Reassessment Training.

Reassessment Test Materials Delivery

Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment Test Materials will arrive during the week of January 26, 2015. It is important to inventory these materials upon receipt and confirm that there are sufficient materials to test all students requiring a reassessment.

Additional Order Window for Reassessment

The Additional Order Window for Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment will open on January 30. If additional materials are needed to test all students requiring a reassessment, place an Additional Order in *PearsonAccess*. All Additional Orders require justification and must be emailed to AZELLA@azed.gov.

Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment Test Window

The Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment testing window is February 9 – March 27. During this window, all ELL students and all ELL students withdrawn at parent request must be reassessed.

UPS Pick Up of Reassessment Materials

All Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment Materials will be returned to Pearson via UPS. District Test Coordinators must contact UPS during the window of March 20 - April 1 to arrange a pick up date in the window of March 23 - April 3. There should be only one pick-up scheduled at one location for all of the district's or charter's spring test materials.

Spring Reassessment Update - Stage V

The Spring 2015 Stage V Reassessment will include three extended Writing items. Each item requires writing a paragraph. The addition of the third extended Writing item returns the Stage V test to the same configuration that was used in Spring 2013. The suggested testing times for Stage V include this additional Writing item.

Stage III-V Sample Tests Available in December

Stage III-V Sample Tests are currently under development. Educator committees met with ADE in October to write the items that will be included on the new Sample Tests. Item types for all domains, Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking, will be represented. The new Sample Tests, including Answer Documents and Teacher's Editions, will be introduced at the OELAS annual conference. The tests will also be available for downloading and printing through the AZELLA website, under the "Resources" tab. The existing Stage I and Stage II Sample Tests are currently posted at: <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/azella/>

Mid-Year AZELLA Testing (ELL to Mainstream)

The window for mid-year testing of qualified ELL students is November 24 – December 19, 2014 (scoring cycle 07). A Teacher Referral Form (found [here](#)) is required. Mid-year test results that report out in scoring cycle 7 will be included in school accountability measures. To ensure that results report out in scoring cycle 7, complete the entire test administration (including the Speaking test) by December 17 and all key entry (including student SAIS ID number) by December 19, 2014.

Students who score "Proficient" for their Overall Proficiency Level are to be moved to mainstream classes and are NOT to take the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment. Students, who do not score Proficient, remain in ELL classes and must take the Spring 2015 AZELLA Reassessment.

NEW! ELL Need Report

In a joint effort to better serve LEAs and schools, Accountability, Assessment, and OELAS are revising the SDELL73 Report. The new SDELL73 Report will be called the ELL Need Report. This report is intended to assist LEAs and schools to know which enrolled students have an ELL need. The new ELL Need Report will be available before the Spring 2015 Reassessment Test Window. More information about the report will be provided when the report is available.

NAEP and International Assessments

WHAT IS NAEP?

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in the United States.

First administered in 1969, NAEP is the largest continuing and nationally representative assessment of what our nation's students know and can do in core subjects such as mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The schools and students participating in NAEP represent schools and students across the country. NAEP is considered the gold standard of assessments because of its high technical quality. From developing frameworks and questions to the reporting of results, NAEP represents the best thinking of assessment and content specialists, state education staff, and teachers from around the nation. NAEP monitors academic progress over time and reports on student achievement at the national and state level only. For more information about NAEP, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

NAEP/TIMSS 2015 PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS ONLY

Thank You, NAEP School Coordinators!

School Coordinators from around the state participated in the MyNAEP Training Webinar on October 1 to assist them in completing the pre-assessment tasks required for NAEP. The webinar may be accessed at <http://www.azed.gov/assessment/naep/> (scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 2015 NAEP Participating Schools).

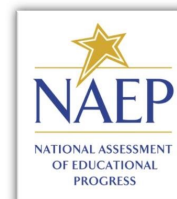
October 31 is the due date for uploading the assessed grade-level student list through www.MyNAEP.com under the **Submit Student List** task on the left-hand menu.

NAEP 2015 Assessment Window

January 26 – March 6
Math, Reading, Science
Grades 4, 8, 12

***TIMSS 2015 Assessment Window**

March 30 – May 29
Math, Science
Grades 4, 8, 12



*Information on pre-assessment activities for TIMSS will be sent out to schools in November.

Getting Ready for a Successful Assessment Day**December 2014**

You should receive your list of sampled students in early December. The NAEP Representative will contact you and schedule an online Pre-Assessment Visit. The NAEP Representative will explain how to complete the Prepare for Assessment tasks due by January 23, 2015. In addition, online tutorials are available to walk you through each step of the process.

- **Update the list of sampled students**
- **Include students with disabilities and English language learners**
- **Notify parents/guardians**
- **Submit a current roster of students**
- **Manage school and/or teacher questionnaires**
- **Plan assessment day logistics**
- **Encourage participation and motivate students to do their best**

Follow NAEP on social media:



Please know that the Arizona NAEP office is here to support you to ensure a successful administration of NAEP at your site. If you need any assistance, please contact the NAEP Inbox, NAEP@azed.gov or call 602-542-5031.

SAVE THE DATE!**2014 OELAS Conference - Empowering Literacy through Language
December 10 - 12, 2014 - JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass**

This year's conference focuses on empowering literacy for our English language learners through masterful and explicit language instruction. Sessions will provide continuing professional development and skills to effectively deliver this instruction. Best practices, as demonstrated by Arizona's school districts and charter schools, will continue to be showcased as we polish and celebrate our success and continue to look for ways to improve and exceed expectations.

A myriad of returning national speakers will enrich this year's conference as well as first-time presenter, William Van Cleave. Additionally, numerous nationally-recognized speakers will deliver keynote addresses each day.

To register or find out more about this event, please go to <http://www.azed.gov/oelasconf>

Assessment 2014 - 2015 Critical Dates Calendar

To help District Test Coordinators track upcoming dates for each of the different Assessment programs, an Assessment Calendar is posted on every Assessment page on the ADE website. This calendar includes critical dates for Achievement Assessments, Alternate Assessments, AZELLA, and NAEP and International Assessments. It will be updated monthly throughout the year. The calendar can be viewed by month with all Assessment programs or by the specific Assessment program at www.azed.gov/assessment/. The individual Assessment program calendars will have more detailed information.

Contact Information**Achievement Assessments**

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